

INTRO OF REP. STOKES *Golding's*
ORLANDO, FLORIDA *copy*
FRIDAY, SEPT. 11, 1992

Thank you, *Bob Brown*
~~John Hairston.~~ *✓*

Every space shuttle that lifts off from Florida carries more than just astronauts. It carries the pride of America. And America has never had a better reason to feel proud than the flight of Dr. Mae Jemison.

She grew up on the South Side of Chicago during the years of the March on Washington and the great civil rights struggle.

Back then, there were no female astronauts. \ There were no black astronauts. \ But it didn't matter. Martin Luther King had a dream, and Mae Jemison had a dream, too.

As the Administrator of NASA, I could not be more proud of any group of individuals as I am of our astronauts. They are the finest people you could ever spend time with. They are multi-talented, super-smart, many with more than one doctorate. The qualifications they have to meet are probably the toughest of any job in the world.

It should come as no surprise, then, that our astronaut corps represents the full cultural diversity of America. We didn't have to go out and find the best from every segment of society, they came looking for us.

It takes more than just astronauts, though, to have a space program. It takes engineers to build spacecraft. It takes mission controllers. It takes scientists to plan experiments. It takes procurement officers, and accountants, and technicians, and computer programmers.

In all these positions, NASA must represent the full cultural diversity of America so that children can have role models to show them that a good education can give them an inspiring, well-paying job.

Space has the power to excite students about learning like nothing I've ever seen. Learning about geology becomes exciting if you can study rocks from the Moon. Learning about math can mean something if you're calculating the amount of power it takes to get to Mars.

Our speaker tonight knows first hand what NASA can do to offer inspiration and hope to children who need it. The NASA Lewis Research Center in Congressman's Stokes home town of Cleveland has teamed up with teachers and parents to use kids' natural interest in space to improve their learning. And I'm really looking forward to visiting the Anton Grdina school with Congressman Stokes next month for a first-hand look at Space Station Harmony.

Martin Luther King said that "education is more than ever the passport to decent economic positions." \ I lived in Los Angeles for 25 years, and the tragedy there this spring broke my heart. That's why I am personally and deeply committed to making NASA a model for the nation in building a culturally diverse workforce at every level -- including the highest levels.

**To prevent future tragedies, we need to offer people hope, inspiration, and the job opportunities that come from having a space program that keeps America on the competitive cutting edge. And we need to have a space agency filled with role models for our young people. I want to declare publicly tonight how strongly and personally committed I am to making the space program a leader in ethnic and cultural diversity. **

It's my pleasure tonight to introduce a man who's had a long and distinguished career in the House of Representatives. I've gotten to know him well in my five months as NASA Administrator, and I look forward to working with him in the future. Ladies and gentleman, Ohio Congressman Louis Stokes.

#

INTRODUCTION OF REP. LOUIS STOKES
BY NASA ADMINISTRATOR DANIEL S. GOLDIN
EDUCATION CONFERENCE
ORLANDO, FLORIDA
SEPTEMBER 11, 1992

Every space shuttle that lifts off from Florida carries more than just astronauts. It carries the pride of America. And America has never had a better reason to feel proud than the flight of Dr. Mae Jemison.

She grew up on the South Side of Chicago during the years of the March on Washington and the great civil rights struggle. Back then, there were no female astronauts. There were no black astronauts. But it didn't matter. Martin Luther King had a dream, and Mae Jemison had a dream, too.

As the Administrator of NASA, I could not be more proud of any group of individuals as I am of our astronauts. They are the finest people you could ever spend time with. They are multi-talented, super-smart, many with more than one doctorate. The qualifications they have to meet are probably the toughest of any job in the world.

It should come as no surprise, then, that our astronaut corps represents the full cultural diversity of America. We didn't have to go out and find the best from every segment of society, they came looking for us.

It takes more than just astronauts, though, to have a space program. It takes engineers to build spacecraft. It takes mission controllers. It takes scientists to plan experiments. It takes procurement officers, and accountants, and technicians, and computer programmers. In all these positions, NASA must represent the full cultural diversity of America so that children can have role models to show them that a good education can give them an inspiring, well-paying job.

Space has the power to excite students about learning like nothing I've ever seen. Learning about geology becomes exciting if you can study rocks from the Moon. Learning about math can mean something if you're calculating the amount power it takes to get to Mars.

Our speaker tonight knows first hand what NASA can do to offer inspiration and hope to children who need it. The NASA Lewis Research Center in Congressman's Stokes home town of Cleveland has teamed up with teachers and parents to use kids' natural interest in space to improve their learning. And I'm really looking forward to visiting the Anton Grdina school with Congressman Stokes next month for a first-hand look at Space Station Harmony.

Martin Luther King said that "Education is more than ever the passport to decent economic positions." I lived in Los Angeles for 25 years, and the tragedy there this spring broke my heart. That's why I am personally and deeply committed to making NASA a model for the nation in building a culturally diverse workforce at every level -- including the highest levels. To prevent future tragedies, we need to offer people hope, inspiration, and the job opportunities that come from having a space program that keeps America on the competitive cutting edge. And we need to have a space agency filled with role models for our young people. I want to declare publicly tonight how strongly and personally committed I am to making the space program a leader in ethnic and cultural diversity.

It's now my distinct pleasure tonight to introduce a man who's had a long and distinguished career in the House of Representatives. As Dr. Mae Jemison, he also has achieved many "firsts" in his life, and is a role model for all Americans.

He was a successful lawyer for 14 years, then in 1968, he ran for Congress and was elected, becoming the first black member for Ohio. He has served 24 years in Congress. He has received 19 honorary doctorate degrees. He has served as chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, and is a senior member of the Appropriations Committee.

I've gotten to know him well over the years, and I look forward to working with him in the future. Ladies and gentlemen, Ohio Congressman Louis Stokes.

#